

**Amendments to the Title**

Please replace the Title with the following marked-up replacement Title:

-- ~~Methods and apparatus for decision~~ Decision support activation and management in  
product life cycle management --

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace Paragraph [0048] with the following marked-up replacement Paragraph:

-- It is to be appreciated that inference engine 304 may be constructed in a variety of ways. One illustrative way is to use a rule-based system for automated control. The left hand side of a rule may be a combination of inputs (e.g., annotated data, context pyramid, user instructions, and possibly other inputs). The right hand side of a rule may be the actions to take based on the inputs. Actions may include but are not limited to disseminating data to different sources, modifying the collaboration directory, displaying some alert information on the dashboard (such as [[an]] a message that the project is late, etc.), automatically annotating the design process, suggesting appropriate actions for the user (such as transforming a file format, etc.). By way of example only, the rule-based system described in G. Fisher et al., "Adding Rule Based Reasoning to a Demonstrational Interface Builder," Proceedings of UIST 92, pp. 89-97, November 1992, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein, may be employed to implement the inference engine. --

Please replace Paragraph [0071] with the following marked-up replacement Paragraph:

-- FIGS. 12 and 13 show the design process flow pyramid. It can be noticed that on the project line, the resolution becomes higher and higher when more and more designers are involved (because they will input via a business-to-business integration platform such as IBM Corporation's Websphere WebSphere® Business Integration Connection[[]]) with annotated data about their check points). This is one of the types of information that the dashboard monitor displays. ("WebSphere" is a registered trademark of International Business Machines

Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.) --

Please replace Paragraph [0084] with the following marked-up replacement Paragraph:

-- In step 1606, the designer then determines the value list of each document attribute. For example, the value list may give as the "initial author," the name of the author who authored the document. The list may also give some potential values for the author, if the author is not [[know]] known. The list may simply leave the value blank if it is not known. --